

SECRET

13 May 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Support Division

VIA: CI/OA

SUBJECT: Alfred Bernins

1. An appropriate clearance is requested for subject who holds a membership in two TPTU/C-sponsored exile organizations: Committee for Free Latvia and Economic Committee of the Assembly of Captive European Nations.

2. Following is biographic data available to this office on subject:

b. 1899, District of Valmiera, Latvia; graduated high school in Valka; studied at Riga Commerce Institute; Arrested by Bolshevik revolutionary regime organizations; Joined Latvian National guerrillas after escaping from prison, 1918; Joined Latvian National army and participated in war of liberation, rank of lieutenant; Journalist with a number of Latvian newspapers; 1930, member of Latvian Parliament rep. of Farmers' Union; Since 1934 member of Latvian cabinet of Ministers; 1940 Minister of Social affairs; 1940 representative for Latvian exiles in Sweden in conference of Latvian ministers in Geneva; 1941 arrested by Nazis in Berlin, imprisoned; 1945 escaped to Jena; lived DP camp until 1950 working as journalist and member of anti-bolshevist orgs.; 1950 emigrated to U.S. arrived in New York; wife, son and daughter have been deported to Siberia by Soviet Secret Police.

IO/I:LMC:C

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